

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07971 140509Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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USMISSION USNATO  
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USCINCEUR  
USNMR SHAPE  
USDOCOSOUTH

UNCLAS ATHENS 7971

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: PRIME MINISTER BEGINS  
ISLAND TOUR, STRESSES SECURITY OF EASTERN AEGEAN ISLANDS

1. FOLLOWING HIS TRADITIONAL OPENING OF THE THESSALONIKI  
INTERNATIONAL FAIR OVER THE WEEKEND, PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS  
DEPARTED SEPTEMBER 12 ON A TOUR TO SEVERAL ISLANDS OF THE  
EASTERN AEGEAN. RESPONDING TO A WELCOMING ADDRESS FROM THE  
MAYOR AT HIS FIRST STOP ON MYTILINI, KARAMANLIS SPOKE ABOUT  
SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT, THE ISLAND'S TWO BASIC PROBLEMS.  
HE SAID "YOUR SECURITY IS IDENTIFIED WITH THE SECURITY OF ALL  
OF GREECE" AND WENT ON: "I BELIEVE THAT NO ONE THREATNS IT.  
BUT IT ISN'T EVEN POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO CONSIDER THREATENING IT.  
AS YOU KNOW, CERTAIN DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN CREATED BETWEEN  
GREECE AND TURKEY, THROUGH NO FAULT OF OUR OWN."

2. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION  
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 07971 140509Z

TO SETTLE SUCH DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY, WHILE COUNSELING VIGILANCE.  
"OUR GOAL IS TO SOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES PEACEFULLY AND JUSTRLY,  
AS IMPOSED BY LOGIC AND THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR PEOPLES.  
AND WHEN I SAY JUSTLY, I MEAN SOLUTIONS WHICH ARE BASED ON  
INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRACTICE RATHER THAN CONSIDERATIONS OF  
POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY". KARAMANLIS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT A  
SIMILAR POINT OF VIEW WILL PREVAIL IN TURKEY "SO THAT OUR PRESENT

NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE FRUITFUL," BUT SAID THAT VIGILANCE WAS CALLED FOR UNTIL THEN. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN TURNED TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION AND MADE A REFERENCE TO THE GENERALLY GOOD SITUATION PREVAILING IN GREECE AS HE HAD SET FORTH IN HIS ADDRESS AT THESSALONIKI. HE PROMISED TO ACCELERATE GOVERNMENTAL CONSIDERATION OF INVESTMENT PROPOSALS FOR ISLAND DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE MYTILINI TALK RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE ON RADIO/TV AND IN THE ATHENS PRESS SEPTEMBER 13, WITH EMPHASIS UNIVERSALLY GIVEN TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECURITY ASSURANCES TO THE ISLANDERS. SEVERAL ACCOUNTS MENTIONED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP COINCIDED WITH THE PASSAGE OF TWO GREEK DESTROYERS THROUGH THE DARDANELLES EN ROUTE TO ODESSA, SOMETHING WHICH HAD ANNOYED THE TURKISH PRESS. (THIS IS THE FIRST GREEK NAVAL TRANSIT OF THE DARDANELLES SINCE 1974, AND THE FIRST VISIT TO ODESSA SINCE 1922.

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THE GREEK PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE ROUNDLY ENJOYED THE "PROVOCATION" THAT THE TURKISH PRESS IS SAID TO HAVE SEEN IN THE TIMING OF THE DESTROYER'S TRANSIT AND THE PRIME MINISTER'S TRIP. WITH SIX ISLANDS TO GO (CHIOS, SAMOS, PATMOS, KALYMNOS AND KOS FOLLOWED BY A WEEKEND ON CRETE), THE PROSPECT OF MORE SECURITY ASSURANCES TO THE ISLANDERS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER - AND MORE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES HERE - APPEARS A CERTAINTY.

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## Message Attributes

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